

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

August 2016



AUGUST PROGRAM

Cubesats

Matthew Sandoval, KM6ATX

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2016

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Howard, W6HDG

The 2016 Summer Bash was a blast this year – see Mike, NA6MB's pictorial column beginning on page 6. There were nearly 100 attendees including

15 members from our club. Next year is our club's turn and Glenn, K6NA has kindly agreed to be our host. For the new SDDXC members who have never seen Glenn's QTH, prepare for a jaw dropping shack and antenna experience. There is a cool drone video from the 2015 Bash at Glenn's on the club web-site.

So....did you work the P5 last week on 20m SSB? That was the question posed to me by a ham friend a couple of days ago. My heart sank. Had I missed the unplanned "short notice" escapades of Dom, 3Z9DX? After quickly consulting both DX World and DX Coffee, the answer was clearly "No". If it had been real, the front page and forums on those sites would have been buzzing and there was not a peep. But my friend was still convinced that he had heard a P5.

As someone who has been hoodwinked in the past by ham pirates, I set out to get to the bottom of the mystery. In such a situation, the web is your friend. I went over to <http://www.dxwatch.com/> and clicked on DX SPOTS: SPOTS SEARCH. I then entered P5* using the star wildcard since my friend couldn't remember the callsign. You can then show up to 50 columns of historical Cluster info using the drop down. There was a sigh of relief when I noticed that it was likely a pirate with the call P5FU on 14.177 on August 11th. P5FU.... the pirate symbolism was priceless. I then went to <http://www.dxheat.com/>, an excellent site created by Tobias Wellnitz, DH1T, and entered P5FU and was treated to the entire breadth of activity by the pirate. If you have never tried DXHeat, it is a wealth of info. Click on DX Cluster or enter a specific callsign to begin. Try entering the call of our Past President, NA6L and you will see that he has submitted 7630 spots to the DX Cluster. John loves sharing the excitement of DX and this stat just proves it. He is also one of the few unselfish hams who will post to the Cluster BEFORE working the DX Station! How many of us can say that? Now try the "DX Cluster" tab in DXHeat. The Band Activity section is an excellent way to see what has been going on during the past hour. The DX Cluster entries can easily be sorted by band and mode. Further, you can quickly become a country flag



By the way, if you are ever faced with a potential pirate in realtime, use www.DXMaps.com. The presentation of QSO's as traces on a global map will show if the propagation to that region of the world is currently even feasible. You can also use DXMaps for excellent historical info if you have the full callsign of the potential pirate. Go to DX Maps: QSO Database and complete a form that looks like this:

1. Select the band: All HF bands ▼

2. Select the propagation mode: All modes ▼

3. If you wish, restrict the query by some of the following criteria:

- ☐ Reported in the past hours
- ☒ Reported from 10 ▼ August ▼ 2016 ▼ at 00 ▼ 00 ▼ UTC until 12 ▼ August ▼ 2016 ▼ at 23 ▼ 59 ▼ UTC
- ☒ Containing the callsign P5FU
- ☐ Containing the text
- ☐ Show only QSO above: Km.
- ☐ Restricted to an area: Don't restrict ▼

4. Select the maximum number of returned QSO: 250 ▼

5. Select how do you want to see the results: Listing ▼

6. Select how do you want to sort the listing: Date/Time ▼ Descending ▼

You will get a list of the “contacts” along with cluster comments which, in this case, totally incriminated the guy. Well, so much for P5 pirates. Hopefully Dom will give us the real thing sometime this year.

I hope that you can attend our next meeting on Wednesday, August 24th at the Sizzler. We'll have a very special DX mystery guest from Down Under as well as an out-of-this-world presentation on Cube-Sats by an awe inspiring young ham. See you there.

73 and Gud DX,

Howard, W6HDG

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes 27 July, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:29PM at the Sizzler Restaurant. 35 members and five guests were in attendance.

Guests:

- Pete, N3PV. Pete works at HRO on Kearny Villa Road.
- Massimo, IZ5KID. Massimo's "day job" is captain of a 151-foot yacht. It is currently docked in San Diego. (I am so jealous! (ed.))
- Gary, W6GDK.
- Phillip, N6WHK. Phillip was a former club member and has just renewed.
- Ron, W6TXK.

The new board members were introduced.

We shared stories and had a moment of silence for Ted Storke, KD6AKT (SK).

At 6:40 we discussed old business:

- We thanked Miguel, KJ6YXI for taking care of the club shirts.
- HRO will have a swap meet on August 6th.

At 6:43 we discussed new business:

- The Summer Bash will be held on August 7th. A flyer is on the club web site.
- Mike, NA6MB is working on the holiday party. Mike, as VP/Program Chairman is doing the planning and getting the date set. The tentative date is December 18th, but the 11th is also a possibility.
- Miguel KJ6YXI encouraged club members to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act (in both houses) by contacting their senators (for S.1685) and their representatives (for H.R. 1301).
- We had a discussion to assemble a history of the club so it can be presented to the club.
- We discussed planning club activities.
- Dennis, N6KI described a book called Contact Sport. It is by author J. K. George, an experienced radio operator himself, who guides you through the exciting world of amateur radio competition and the intriguing characters of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship.

At 7:00 we began the roundtable discussion.

After the break Randy, KQ6RS gave a presentation on Stand-alone Software Defined Radio (SDR) Receivers.

Treasurer's Report

Income for July \$10

Expenses for July \$20.27

Statement Balance on 8/1/2016 \$6,143.63



Randy, KQ6RS

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON DIGITAL

8/16	8/15	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K0XB	40	323	328	328	+1
2.	2.	NN6K	40	325	325	326	-
3.	3.	N7CW	39	266	266	311	-
4.	4.	K6XT	40	276	278	308	+5
5.	6.	WB6BFG	40	254	254	266	+10
6.	5.	W6YOO	38	256	260	260	+2
7.	8.	NA6L	32	232	232	243	+23
8.	7.	WN6K	40	204	205	239	+6
9.	-	K5OA	22	175	175	204	NEW
10.	9.	AD6ZJ	35	185	186	199	-

This time we see a couple more big jumps and one fresh new entry to the list. Rick, K0XB pulls out by a nose to shore up his first place position, while John, NA6L jumps up into leaderboard territory in seventh place. There are plenty of new ones out there for the rest of us, so give the digital modes a try. Digital is becoming more popular all the time. The advent of PSK31 and the new rage, JT65 have really ignited a surge of interest. The old 60 WPM baudot RTTY mode is now heard mostly only on contest weekends.

New software is being introduced all the time. MMTTY is a good one when used with Writelog or N1MM and a sound blaster card, but now I'm hearing good things about a new decoder called "2Tone". Most of the expeditions are now doing a fair amount of RTTY for The Deserving. We'll be looking for many more entries next year in this fun but under-represented category.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, phone and CW. Please send me your totals for each band and mode throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM

VP Report

Mike, NA6MB

The SCDXC / SDDXC summer bash was held on Sunday, August 7th at the QTH of Bill, N6MXU and Leida, N6MXC, Erickson. The location is a beautiful home high in the Anaheim Hills.

They have a really nice looking station featuring a Flex 6500 and an IC-7800.



The kitchen started as the meet and greet location, but the crowd soon spilled over to the rest of the house.



The other side of the ham shack served as a dining room.



As usual there was a lot of good food and two special cakes to celebrate.





The XYs took up a position at the front door. Was that to check who was coming and leaving or were they acting as security for this event?



As usual, it was a great event and an opportunity to get together with our friends from the SCDXC.

Mike, NA6MB

From the Editor

I want to recognize the extraordinary contribution made by Arnie Lewin, W7BIA who has served as the SDDXC webmaster for years and years. I have tremendously enjoyed working with Arnie. Thank you, Arnie, for your efforts and hard work. I am now looking forward to working with our new webmaster, Glen Christensen, AI6RR. I am continuing my vacation. Back in September.

73,

Bob, K9RHY





From the SMC reflector

Jim N7US

Dear Colleagues:

If you believe, as I do, that the proposal to unregulate the bandwidth of data signals (like Pactor 4) in the lower HF portion of the spectrum is dangerous for the hobby, both in the US and abroad, then please read on as we need your help. If you do not agree with me, or don't care about this, then feel free to delete and stop reading.

I ask that you PLEASE take action by filling public comments with the FCC regarding their recent RM 11708 proposed rule-making in WT Docket No. 16-239 and RM-11708, and please forward this to every CW and RTTY enthusiast you know in ham radio, on every reflector, in every CW and RTTY club, both in the US and elsewhere, and urge them to also file comments with the FCC. We have less than 3 weeks to voice our opinion! It was not heard in 2014-2015.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! There are less than 3 weeks during which the FCC will accept comments.

I am fearful and quite certain that RM 11708, as published in WT Docket No.

16-239, which the FCC is now seeking public comment on as a prelude to enact its ruling, will terribly erode CW and RTTY on the HF bands in its current form. The ruling will allow PACTOR 4 and multi-tone modems on any frequency within the CW/RTTY frequencies on HF. This is worse than allowing SSB to operate throughout the CW/data sub bands, something the FCC has never allowed. The FCC is proposing an unlimited bandwidth for data signals in the lower HF bands (the ARRL asked for 2.8 kHz-- the bandwidth of SSB--- which was still bad - and the FCC proposal is even worse). I would urge all of you write in to object to RM 11708 and to ask that the FCC place a 500 Hz bandwidth limit all data transmission bandwidths such as Pactor, multi tone data modems, and other experimental data modes on all HF bands within the lowest 75 or 100 kHz region of each HF band. Japan has something similar. If we don't generate large support from hams to scale back the FCC proposal, and put a bandwidth cap in some portion of the lower HF bands, these monster QRMers of unlimited bandwidth will be allowed to operate anywhere in the CW/RTTY lower HF bands, and they will lawfully fire up on your CW or RTTY QS when you are least expecting it.

See below how the proponents of RM 11708, including my friend Tom Whiteside, are launching an aggressive letter-writing campaign for "pro" comments to be filed at the FCC to allow Pactor 4 and other wideband multi-tone modems to operate anywhere in the CW/RTTY spectrum, without a segregation of the band.

The public filing period ends in a few weeks, so we must write now to offer opposition to the Commission. The need for WinLink/Pactor data emergency communication on HF is being used as one of the arguments for expanding the data bandwidth. See the other arguments below. I would urge CW and RTTY enthusiasts to review the arguments for and against RM 11708, see the public comments filed from March 2014 to today, and please be moved to quickly to write about your opposition to the newly proposed regulation just released by the FCC (It can be viewed here):

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0728/FCC-16-96A1.pdf

Please see Tom's email below on how to file a comment, but I would urge you to read the FCC proposal and file comments *against* the FCC's proposed rulemaking. You can see the ballet box is again be flooded for the expanded data privileges in the past week - there are only 20 days to file comments.

If this ruling is enacted, and the FCC is leaning that way, this will come at a cost to CW and RTTY. See these comments already filed:

https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/filings?sort=date_disseminated,DESC&proceedings_name=RM-11708

Unfortunately, in the FCC proposed ruling issued over a week ago, the Commission appears to have ignored ALL comments made by hams after the initial 30 day comment period back in late 2013. During that one month period, there was a 95% "pro" letter writing campaign by over 800 people -- It was only after the CW and RTTY enthusiasts woke up in March of 2014 that public comments became overwhelmingly negative against RM 11708.

Unfortunately, the FCC has apparently ignored all of those comments, so new comments need to be filed on the FCC's recent ruling.

If you care about CW and RTTY, please file comments against the ruling, to preserve some sanctuary for narrowband data (having less than 500 Hz bandwidth), the way the largest ham country (Japan) has done to ensure no QRM to CW and RTTY enthusiasts.

Thanks for considering.

Best 73 ted n9nb